

BOOK REVIEWS

NETTER, FRANK H. **Atlas of Human Anatomy**. 2d ed. Arthur F. Dalley, Consulting Editor. East Hanover, NH: Novartis, 1997. 525 p. \$59.95. ISBN 0-914168-80-0. ©

Fulfilling a dream to produce a one-volume collection of normal anatomy illustrations encompassing all regions of the human body, Frank H. Netter, M.D., saw the publication of the first edition of this atlas in 1989, two years before his death. Since then, its popularity has been confirmed as the "best selling anatomy atlas in U.S. medical schools." It is also available in seven languages in over sixty countries worldwide.

The second edition is intended to continue the tradition of excellence by making a "best seller even better!" Novartis artist Carlos Machado, M.D., has updated renditions in the Netter style and has added cross-sectional anatomy plates that are essential to the interpretation of new medical imaging techniques. Changes have also been made where new technologies reveal the need to update anatomic errors. The section on the pelvis and perineum, in particular, has undergone extensive revision. Labeling has been improved, using more consistent terminology throughout the work and updating terms to the current usage. The Latin form of terminology has been replaced with more user-friendly English equivalents. Previous terms are included in parentheses if the change is significantly different.

The Netter atlas has remained a favorite among students for a number of reasons that include the manageable size of the volume as well as the Netter style of presentation, which shows a balance between detail and clarity of information. Multiple colors are skillfully used, as well, to add to the student's understanding of structure. Both editions have answered the demand by the medical profession

that Dr. Netter's artwork pertinent to gross anatomy be classified and organized. The plates are presented in a logical sequence by system and region starting with the head and neck, progressing down through the back, thorax, abdomen, pelvis, and limbs, finishing with the chapter on cross-sectional anatomy. A key is provided showing the location of each of the eleven cross-sectional planes that are illustrated, including the pulmonary trunk, the chambers of the heart, and the bladder-prostate junction, for example. A list of references and an extensive forty-eight-page index complete the work.

Several other versions of the second edition are available on the market, which can be confusing. The CIBA-Geigy Corporation Medical Education Division sells a hard cover second edition, with a 1998 publication date, for \$84.95. An interactive CD-ROM version for Windows or Macintosh platforms is available for \$99.95, and a combination softcover book and CD-ROM package is available for \$144.95. Interestingly, the review on *Doody's Electronic Journal* rated the book at only three stars out of five, with the comment that the atlas was recommended, but "those who already own a copy of the first edition probably won't be interested in this 'upgrade'" [1].

The *Sobatta Atlas of Human Anatomy* translated and edited by Anna N. Taylor, Ph.D., of the University of California, Los Angeles, takes a different approach from that of the Netter atlas in several ways [2]. The twelfth English edition of the two-volume work supplements anatomical illustrations with radiological images, color photographs of surface anatomy, and surgical procedures emphasizing the relationship of anatomy to clinical practice, which aids in giving the reader a realistic view of the body. The drawings used in the Sobatta atlas are excellent, but are not as colorful

as the Netter illustrations and sometimes appear more cluttered even for the same body region.

Another work that is described as an "excellent supplement to a textbook of anatomy or hand drawn atlas" such as the Netter book is *McMinn's Color Atlas of Human Anatomy*, 4th edition, 1998, edited by P. H. Abrahams [3]. Composed of nearly 1,000 color photographs of human dissections, the McMinn book emphasizes clinical anatomy from several levels of expertise and complements the photographs with magnetic resonance images (MRIs), computer-generated figures, and hand-drawn diagrams.

Netter's work is a classic in medical illustration and, of course, should be in every medical library, but the variety of technologies employed in other anatomy atlases adds to their value as well. The use of MRIs, color photographs, and computer-generated figures greatly contributes to the knowledge of anatomy in a clinical setting, providing more realistic images than static drawings. In the final analysis, each approach complements the other.

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References

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Electronic Resources: Use and User Behavior. Edited by Hemalata Iyer. New York, NY: Haworth Press, 1998. (Published simultaneously as **The Reference Librarian**, v. 28, no. 60.) 145 p. \$39.95. ISBN 0-7890-0372-4. ©

In this volume, contributors focus on Internet resources and geographic information systems (GIS) as these newest of library services present system management and user assistance challenges. This slim volume consists of four sections with a total of seven articles covering a variety of topics including theoretical models of user interaction, studies of user searching behavior, and management of electronic resources.

The first section covering Internet resources contains a paper that reviews theories developed to explain the kind of mental processes required to use information systems and that looks at promising new theories for "identifying users' internal states of being as they seek information" (p. 22). The authors argue that the library and information profession "must improve its understanding of the cognitive

and contextual needs of information seekers" (p. 21). Methodologies for studying user behavior reviewed in this section include experiments, interview techniques, written user surveys, transaction log analysis, unconscious cognition, usability studies, and verbal protocol analysis.

The second section covers Internet organization and searching. The first of three articles in this section evaluates the retrieval effectiveness of eight major search engines. The Open Text system is rated best for twenty-one actual reference questions used and Infoseek for five made-up subject questions. A second article in this section discusses applying the features of maps to the organization and arrangement of Internet resources in order to produce visual maps of the Web. This section's final article examines Web search tactics (some similar to online searching, others unique to the Web) and problems such as too much or too little retrieval.

The third section on GIS contains an excellent introduction to these systems and their use and makes a comparison with library map rooms. The concluding section contains two articles that discuss managing reference services in the electronic age, and user attitudes toward print and electronic resources.

This volume is an interesting collection of articles covering a wide range of topics. Given that a major focus is on Internet resources, the studies on Internet searching unfortunately suffer by being out of date by the time they are published. For example, the study of the eight search engines and the answers they produced for reference and subject queries could not include two of the newer search engines, Hotbot and Northern Lights. The winner, Open Text, no longer operates as a general search engine. Also, there are few references after 1996. The authors acknowledge the limits on these studies, particularly the fact that they have examined an undergraduate population at a single campus and academic library, and essentially present snapshots in time. While there are suggestions for further research and new methodologies to study users and their behaviors in an electronic environment, throughout this volume there is little of direct interest to medical librarians. On a minor aside—despite what the publisher's promotional literature says, anyone seeking information on how to access China's legal literature will not find it in this book, nor will they find the advertised section on customer service skills.

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